

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

BRANDON RICHARDS,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 2:14-CV-14959
HONORABLE GERALD E. ROSEN
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

OFFICER ADKINS, et. Al.,

Defendants,

/

OPINION AND ORDER OF SUMMARY DISMISSAL

Plaintiff is an inmate confined at the Federal Correctional Institution in Fairton, New Jersey. At the time plaintiff filed his complaint, plaintiff filed an Application to Proceed In District Court Without Prepaying Fees or Costs. Because this application was deficient, on January 13, 2015, Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen signed an order of deficiency, which required plaintiff to provide a prisoner's application to proceed without prepayment of fees and costs and authorization to withdraw from trust fund account, a signed certification of his prison trust account from an authorized jail official and a current computerized trust fund account showing the history of the financial transactions in plaintiff's institutional trust fund account for the past six months. Alternatively, the order allowed plaintiff to pay the four hundred (\$ 400.00) dollar filing fee in full. Plaintiff was given thirty days to comply with the order.

On January 29, 2015, plaintiff filed an Application to Proceed in District Court Without Prepayment of Fees or Costs, which was similar to the application that he had previously filed. Plaintiff, however, failed to provide this Court with a written authorization

to withdraw funds from his prison trust fund account. Plaintiff has also failed to provide the court with a certified trust account statement.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) requires a prisoner who wishes to proceed without prepayment of fees and costs in a civil complaint in federal court to file a certified copy of the trust fund account statement for that prisoner for the six month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint or notice of appeal, obtained from the appropriate official of each prison at which the prisoner is or was confined. See also *McGore v. Wrigglesworth*, 114 F. 3d 601, 605 (6th Cir. 1997).

If an inmate who does not pay the full filing fee fails to provide an affidavit of indigency or a certified trust account statement, the district court must notify the prisoner of the deficiency and the prisoner will then have thirty days from the date of the deficiency order to correct the error or to pay the full filing fee. *McGore v. Wrigglesworth*, 114 F. 3d at 605. If the inmate fails to comply with the district court's directions, “[t]he district court must presume that the prisoner is not a pauper and assess the inmate the full amount of fees.” *Id.* The district court must then order that the case be dismissed for want of prosecution. *Id.*

Plaintiff's application to proceed without prepayment of fees and costs is initially deficient because he failed to file an authorization to withdraw funds. The moment plaintiff filed his complaint, he became responsible for the filing fee, and he waived any objection to the withdrawal of funds from his trust fund account to pay court fees and costs. *McGore v. Wrigglesworth*, 114 F. 3d at 605. Plaintiff's application to proceed without prepayment of fees or costs is deficient and subject to dismissal because it lacks the requisite authorization form. See *Lindsey v. Roman*, 408 Fed. App'x. 530, 533 (3rd Cir. 2010).

Plaintiff has also failed to provide the Court with a signed certification regarding trust fund account. An uncertified trust fund account statement, or one that lacks a signature, is insufficient to satisfy the filing requirements for permitting a prisoner to proceed *in forma pauperis* under § 1915(a)(2), nor would it cure the deficiency in this case. See *Hart v. Jaukins*, 99 Fed. App'x. 208, 209-10 (10th Cir. 2004); See also *Moore v. Vantifflin*, No. 2009 WL 224548, * 1 (E.D. Mich. January 30, 2009).

Plaintiff has failed to correct the deficiency in this case. Because Plaintiff has failed to comply with the deficiency order, the Court will dismiss the complaint without prejudice for want of prosecution based upon plaintiff's failure to fully comply with the deficiency order. See e.g. *Erby v. Kula*, 113 Fed. App'x. 74, 75-76 (6th Cir. 2004).

Accordingly, the Court **DISMISSES WITHOUT PREJUDICE** the complaint [Dkt. Entry # 1] under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1) and (b)(1) and (2) for failure to comply with the filing requirements of the Prison Litigation Reform Act.

s/Gerald E. Rosen
Chief Judge, United States District Court

Dated: March 10, 2015

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served upon the parties and/or counsel of record on March 10, 2015, by electronic and/or ordinary mail.

s/Julie Owens
Case Manager, (313) 234-5135